number of such incidents State-wise during the last five years is given in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix 198 Annexure No. 12]

(c) and (d) The information in respect of individual incidents is not maintained by the National Crime Records Bureau. However, two statements showing the number of persons arrested, persons charge-sheeted, trials completed, persons convicted and persons under trial under Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 during the years 1996—2000 and under Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, during the years 1996-2000, are enclosed in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix 194, Annexure No. 12]

Involvement of NSG Officers in a Criminal Case

3466. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that three senior officers of NSG are alleged to be involved in the disappearance of a youth on 18th August, 1999 from Army custody in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) if so, the status of the criminal proceedings or court martial case against them after CJM has *prima-facie* held these officers responsible for the disappearance as reported in the media?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) Three Army Officers on deputation to NSG were allegedly involved in an incident of the disappearance of a youth on the intervening night of 17/18 August, 1990. These officers were later repatriated to the Army in the year 1992 after their completion of tenure in NSG.

(b) In 1996, the J & K Government moved the Central Govt. for sanction of prosecution. This was not agreed to for want of sufficient evidence. The State Govt. was advised to vigorously pursue the investigation and complete the same. It was also mentioned that if in course of such investigation, any evidence becomes available necessitating reconsideration, the case may be re-submitted for grant of prosecution sanction. Again, a similar request was received on 6-9-99 from the State Govt. explaining the facts and circumstances of the case. After examination of the case, the Central Govt. requested the State Govt. on 10-11-99 to complete the investigation and file the challan before the Competent Court and the question of prosecution or otherwise will

be decided only thereafter. Since then, the Central Govt. has not received formal request from the State Govt. of J &K for grant of prosecution sanction.

Public Distribution of Trishul

†3467. DR. PRABHA THAKUR : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether distribution of Trishul to public is not contempt of pious religious symbol of the God Shiva and the Goddess Shakti;

(b) whether any person or institution which disgraces any religion for its own interest is not guilty; and

(c) whether Government consider those persons as offenders who behave irreligiously in the name of religion; if so, whether Government propose to take action against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) Religious practices and customs in India vary widely and every person has the right to freedom of religion, which has been enshrined as a Fundamental Right under the Constitution.

(b) and (c) Acts of persons or institutions which hurt the religious sentiments of others are offences under the various provisions of different laws including the Indian Penal Code. Additionally if such acts are likely to apart Public Order or are prejudicial to the security of the country action is taken by the respective State Govt.

Report of International Narcotics Control Board

†3468. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether in the report released by International Narcotics Control Board, it has been alleged that India prepares heroin and brown sugar illegally; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.